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AN UNUSUAL AND IMPORTANT NEW BOOK

THE GENESIS FLOOD

The Biblical Record and its Scientific Implications

by

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JOHN C. WHITCOMB, JR., is Professor of Old Testament and Director of Post-Graduate Studies at Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, Indiana. His undergraduate education was completed at Princeton University where, after a two-year delay while in military service, he received the A.B. degree, *cum laude*, in 1948. He earned the B.D. degree in 1951, the Th.M. in 1953, and the Th.D. in 1957, all at Grace Theological Seminary. Dr. Whitcomb has contributed articles to several theological journals and to *The New Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, *The New Bible Dictionary*, and *The Encyclopedia of Christianity*. He has written the commentaries on Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther in the *Wycliffe Bible Commentary* (Moody Press), and his *Chart of Old Testament Kings and Prophets* (4th edition, 1962) is being used in over 200 colleges and seminaries. Dr. Whitcomb is the author of *Darius the Mede: A Study in Historical Identification* (Eerdmans, 1959), which was selected by the periodical *Christianity Today* as one of the twenty-five outstanding evangelical books of 1959.



HENRY M. MORRIS has been Professor of Hydraulic Engineering and has been Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute since 1957. His education includes a B.S. from Rice University "with distinction," in 1939, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota, in 1948 and 1950, respectively. The graduate degrees were taken with a major in engineering hydraulics and hydrology and minors in mathematics and geology. He spent three years with the International Boundary and Water Commission, first as Junior Engineer, then as Assistant Hydraulic Engineer, followed by four years on the civil engineering faculty at Rice. He was on the faculty of the University of Minnesota during the period 1946-1951, and also served as a research project leader at the University's St. Anthony Falls Hydraulics Laboratory. He was Professor and Head of the Civil Engineering Department at Southwestern Louisiana University from 1951 through 1956, before moving to V.P.I. He is a full Member of Sigma Xi, an Honor Member of Chi Epsilon, and a Member of Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi, all honorary societies. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and of the American Association for Advancement of Science, and holds professional memberships in the American Geophysical Union, the American Meteorological Society, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Geochemical Society, the International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage Research, and others. He has been Chairman of the Applied Hydraulics Committee of the American Society for Engineering Education, and a member of various other regional and national committees. Dr. Morris is the author of a number of publications, both in hydraulics and in Christian apologetics, and has biographical listings in six different "Who's Who" publications. Ronald Press published his textbook, *Applied Hydraulics in Engineering*, in 1963.



Harold W. Clark (Professor of Biology at Pacific Union College, in a review in *THE NATURALIST*):

This unusual new book has been acclaimed by theologians and scientists alike as one of the most scholarly studies on the Flood ever published. Even some who are accustomed to think in terms of uniformitarian geology admit that it offers them a real challenge. The authors are eminently qualified to write on this subject . . . The book is especially refreshing to one who believes in the literal rendering of Genesis, as both authors bow closely to the line of literal interpretation and support their views with sound historical, philosophical, and scientific evidence . . . We find ourselves in hearty accord with the general purpose of the major portion of this inspiring work.

Robert Strong (Pastor of the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Montgomery, Alabama, in a review published in *THE PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL*):

Here is invaluable material for the minister or layman who has ever paid any attention to the problem of the relation of Scripture and modern science. Crucial passages of Genesis are carefully interpreted. The theory of organic evolution is met head on. Historical geology is given a searching treatment. Reverence for the Bible and enormous knowledge of the sciences combine to produce one of the most stimulating and rewarding books of our time.

R. Laird Harris (Professor of Old Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., in a review published in *GRACE JOURNAL*):

This is an important book . . . The reviewer is in full agreement with the first part of the book—the exegetical. A universal flood seems to be demanded by the Bible . . . The second part of the book is the more significant because the more unusual. It amasses no end of evidence to show that the current theories of historical geology are inconsistent with themselves or with important and well-known facts . . . This is perhaps the strongest part of the book. There are many problems in geology which too often have been swept under the rug . . . Their attack on classic historical geology is devastating . . . It may be that the evolutionary strong point in historical geology may fall in the foreseeable future.

Ven Te Chow (Professor of Hydraulic Engineering, University of Illinois, author of *Open-Channel Hydraulics*, and Consulting Editor of McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.):

The authors have made an invaluable contribution to the understanding of the very thought-provoking question of the Biblical Flood. This scholarly piece of work will undoubtedly enrich the minds of both theologians and scientists.

Stephen Wilhelm (Professor of Plant Pathology, University of California at Berkeley):

*I have enjoyed reading *THE GENESIS FLOOD*, and certainly believe as you that a catastrophe of such magnitude as the Flood would have far-reaching geological implications . . . I appreciate, too, the tremendous amount of research that you put into the book, and your clear statements as to God's infallible Word and faith in Christ.*

George McCready Price (author of many works on the Bible and science):

In my judgment, this is the most noteworthy volume on Christian apologetics in years. Since admissions in favor of the truth from the ranks of its enemies constitute the strongest kind of evidence, it is surely no small feat of scholarship to assemble some 2000 statements from over 600 modern scientific writers in support of the many detailed specifications in these early chapters of Genesis, with most of these scientific statements being not more than five years old.

Ralph M. Sinclair (Principal Biologist, Stream Pollution Control, State of Tennessee Department of Health):

It is a book which deserves wide circulation. The scholarly approach is very refreshing. The biological data and interpretation are quite sound.

A. Wayne Magnitzky (Technical Advisor for Earth Sciences, Office of Deputy Chief of Naval Operations):

A tremendous book . . . It has been needed for a long time. It presents the facts in clear concise words which require no further proof or arguments of any kind. It is presented much as a lawyer would a case to court.

Southwestern Journal of Theology (Southwestern Baptist Seminary), Vol. 4, No. 2, April, 1962. Ralph L. Smith, Reviewer:

Starting with a frankly stated belief in the verbal inerrancy and infallibility of the Word of God the authors of this volume marshal much biblical and scientific evidence in an attempt to prove the universality of the Genesis flood . . . This is a very serious work and deserves a wide reading and serious consideration.

R. J. Vijayanandam (Head of Civil Engineering Section, Government Polytechnic, Coimbatore, South India):

*I was much delighted to receive your new book, *THE GENESIS FLOOD*. Really it is of absorbing interest and has strengthened my faith in the Word of God, which endureth forever.*

Edward J. Young (Professor of Old Testament, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa.):

This is a controversial work and it must be taken seriously . . . evinces wide research and great learning. One need not agree with all the writers have set forth to realize that this is a significant book. No one can read this book without profit. We hope that it will receive the serious consideration which it deserves.

John J. Grebe (Director of Nuclear and Basic Research, The Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan):

As one who 'evolved' from a cocksure evolutionist in forty years by learning from wide experience with many fields of science how very much we do not know, and who has seen past conclusions which were used to disprove some interpretations of the Bible repudiated by succeeding new scientific conclusions, I am most grateful for the many facts presented in this book. Once again the Bible is shown to be uncommonly wise, not only in prophecy, human relations, and man's destiny, but even in the fields of geology and history. This book shows that it would be hard to contradict the Genesis story of the Flood.

C. M. Hathaway (President of Western Electrodynamics, Colorado Springs, Colorado):

*The Christian community the world over owes to you a vote of thanks for the great time and effort you have expended in the preparation of *THE GENESIS FLOOD*. I am not a geologist but I am an engineer, and with some appreciation for mechanics I could never bring myself to accept many of the uniformitarian explanations for geological facts. I am tremendously impressed with the fact that much more rational explanations for such things as the Lewis overthrust, fossil distribution, coal deposits, etc., are possible on the basis of great catastrophic upheavals associated with the Genesis flood. You have presented your case in a most masterful and scientific manner.*

A. G. Tilney (Hon. Secretary, Evolution Protest Movement of England, in a review published by the E.P.M., October, 1962):

*The book is replete with striking quotations and photographs, justifying the authors' conclusions and re-orientation from the re-interpreted data . . . We feel bound to agree with the publishers that this Genesis Flood may well 'prove to be one of the most widely-discussed and possibly one of the most significant books of our times.' Readers in search of information will be sure to find this book a mine with many veins, while those of fixed ideas—yet who are honest enough to read it—will find it a minefield dangerous to prejudice. A new era of faith in the truth of the Word and the Works of God, past and to come, may result from a full and fair study of *THE GENESIS FLOOD*, for which we are most grateful.*

Gordon J. van Wylen (Professor and Chairman, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, University of Michigan; author of *Thermodynamics*):

This book warrants the careful consideration of all those concerned with the relation between Christianity and science. The treatment of the presuppositions of much current scientific thinking is excellent and the proposed Scriptural framework for historical geology should encourage scholarly contributions based on Christian presuppositions.

Robert K. DeVries (Manager of the Seminary Book Room, Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, Texas):

To my way of thinking, this is the most significant book on science and Scripture which has been published by an evangelical in the past 25 years. We are thrilled with its scholarly and comprehensive treatment and are proud to assist in its distribution. We are grateful to God for the publication of this epochal work.

THE GENESIS FLOOD presents a new and powerful system for unifying and correlating scientific data bearing on the earth's early history. Frankly recognizing the inadequacies of uniformitarianism and evolutionism as unifying principles, the authors propose a Biblically-based system of creationism and catastrophism. They stress the philosophic and scientific necessity of the doctrine of "creation of apparent age," as well as the importance in terrestrial history of geologic and hydrologic "catastrophes," especially that of the great Deluge inscribed in the records of the Bible and in the legends of early peoples all over the world. The book is careful and courteous in its treatment of opposing viewpoints, and is thoroughly documented and up-to-date.

The uniformist approach to the study of earth history has proved unable to explain many of the most important physical structures and phenomena, a fact which has become of increasing concern to geologists and other scientists in recent years. At the same time, archaeological discoveries in the Near East have stimulated a growing confidence in the reliability of the historical data recorded in the Bible. These two important facts amply warrant a serious study of the possibility of reorienting the pertinent scientific data within the framework of Biblical Creationism and Catastrophism.

The authors, each of recognized scholarship in his own field, contend that this approach will ultimately provide a more satisfactory basis for the correlation of all pertinent scientific data than does the present uniformist-evolutionist approach. Consideration of their evidence will make an intensely fascinating and thought-provoking study for the open-minded reader. Less than four years after publication over 15,000 copies of four printings have been sold. An unusually high percentage of orders have come from the libraries of state and other secular universities. *The Genesis Flood* was listed by *Christianity Today* as one of the 25 best evangelical contributions of 1961. Similar ratings were given in *Eternity* and *United Evangelical Action*. The publishers believe that *The Genesis Flood* will prove to be one of the most widely-discussed and possibly one of the most significant books of our times.

Published by
PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. Box 185 Nutley 10, New Jersey

525 pages, 28 figures—Price \$6.95

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REVIEWS AND COMMENTS ON
THE GENESIS FLOOD

- E. H. Hadley (Ph.D., University of Michigan, Professor of Chemistry, Southern Illinois University):
After studying this book, I can heartily recommend it to anyone who is interested in the study of the Biblical story of the creation of the earth. It is a thoughtful, well-written book which will be well worth your time to read. I recommend it without reservation.
- Walter E. Lammerts (Ph.D. in Genetics, University of California, formerly on faculty of University of California at Los Angeles, now Horticultural Consultant to Germain's, Inc., at Livermore, California):
The authors clearly show that the earth's scarred surface and deeper geological structures resulted from sudden catastrophes. Uniformitarian theories of geology simply do not explain them. Likewise, biological variability of surviving units occurred rapidly, within specific and generic limits, as the earth was repopulated.
- Merrill F. Unger (Professor of Old Testament Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary; author of several books on Biblical archaeology):
A stimulating and accurate exposition of what the Bible says about the Noachic Flood, a brilliant and compelling challenge to the theories of modern uniformitarian geology, and a desperately needed discussion on a crucial point of the alleged clash between Scripture and Science.
- Oswald T. Allis (Nineteen years in the Department of Semitic Philology at Princeton Theological Seminary and seven years professor in the Old Testament Department at Westminster Theological Seminary; author of numerous books):
The universality of the Flood, formerly very generally accepted, is now emphatically denied by most geologists and anthropologists; and many Biblical scholars hold that it is not taught in the Genesis account. In the present volume a scientist has dealt with the one problem and a theologian with the other. They have sought to face all the available facts and to deal with them adequately and honestly. Their conclusion is that the Flood was a cosmic phenomenon. This book will confirm and strengthen the faith of those who agree with them; and those who are firmly persuaded that their view is impossible should be willing to examine this comprehensive and scholarly work.
- Harold S. Slusher (Assistant Professor of Physics, Texas Western College, El Paso, Texas):
I am convinced that this is one of the best and most thorough studies dealing with the Flood, both from the Biblical and scientific standpoints. As a physicist, I believe that the scientific arguments used are generally very sound.
- L. A. M. Barnette (Geophysicist with the Humble Oil Co.; 30 years in the petroleum industry, including ten years research in geophysical and stratigraphical identification techniques):
A superb record of the indelible facts imprinted on the face of the earth by the world-wide catastrophic flood of Noah's time. Remarkably complete, well-documented, accurately analyzed, truly scientific!
- Edwin Y. Monsma (Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Calvin College):
This book clearly shows the fallacy of the uniformitarian interpretation of past history and in so doing strikes at the very heart of evolutionary thinking. In treating the various means of age determination, it seeks to find a solution in harmony with the Divine word. This is a most valuable contribution at a time when uniformitarian interpretations of creation are generally accepted.

James H. Cole (President of Hampden DuBose Academy, Zellwood, Florida):
As a geology major in college (Ohio State University) and a firm believer in the inspiration of the Scriptures, I feel that your book is very clear and very necessary in these days of skepticism and doubt concerning the infallible Word of God. We here at the Academy certainly agree wholeheartedly with your position, which we feel is entirely Scriptural.

Frederic R. Howe (Professor of Systematic Theology, Western Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary, Portland, Oregon, in a review published by BIBLIOTHECA SACRA):
Two men, an Old Testament scholar and a scientist, have teamed up to produce what surely is one of the most significant works to be published in our day—a major work on Biblical apologetics and interpretation which has long been awaited by the orthodox Christian public in America . . . The whole work breathes an air of competency, painstaking accuracy in the details of research and verification, and fairness with opposing viewpoints. Morris and Whitcomb contend ably for a universal flood . . . Using this issue as the focal point, however, they engage in what this reviewer considers the most capable and penetrating analysis of uniformitarianism in geology that he has ever studied . . . Many of the crucial topics faced today by Christians are given thorough treatment here. One will find penetrating studies on the problems inherent within the radioactive and uranium methods of determining the age of the earth. In short, this work is a must for alert Christians today.

Mining Engineering, Vol. 13, No. 8, August, 1961, p. 920
This book, as its subtitle indicates, proposes a Biblically-based system of creation and catastrophism, as opposed to the current widely accepted uniformitarian and evolutionary theories of historical geology. The authors have carefully considered and developed their arguments and have thoroughly documented them with up-to-date material. As John C. McCampbell points out in his forward, this volume offers a serious challenge to the uniformitarian position—in no way disturbing it—and that the serious reader, before dismissing the Biblical-literal viewpoint, should give it a careful reading and evaluation. The essential differences between the two viewpoints are not over the factual data of geology but over the interpretations of those data. The interpretation preferred will depend largely upon the background and presuppositions of the individual. In either case, he should in fairness to himself and others, consider both sides of the question with equal diligence.

S. Hugh Paine (Houghton College, Houghton, N. Y., in a review published in THE WESLEYAN METHODIST):
The authors handle their arguments in an objective and scholarly manner . . . The real value of the book lies in the mass of direct evidence brought to bear against the uniformitarian hypothesis—an unprovable thesis which by its very nature forbids any literal acceptance of the Genesis record. It is hoped that this point will carry in the ranks of Evangelical scholarship.

Wilbert H. Rusch, Sr. (Prof. of Science, Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska, in a review in MOODY MONTHLY):
In my opinion this is a comprehensive, highly significant study, superior to any previous work in this area. It is certainly worthy of careful consideration by all Christians.

John N. Moore (Professor of Natural Science, Michigan State University):
After close scrutiny of this book, I recommend it particularly to American youth in science courses. The authors have accomplished a unique preliminary report of a new scheme of historical-geology based upon Biblical revelation within which scientific data may be interpreted. This book, which provides thorough documentation, will help students encounter the circular reasoning of bold evolutionists, and will point out basic objections to uniformitarian geology and radioactive timekeeping . . . A stimulus to a re-thinking and re-studying of 'actual observed data' of geology.

Harold Hartzler (Executive Secretary of the American Scientific Affiliation, in a review in UNITED EVANGELICAL ACTION):
In the opinion of this reviewer the book should be carefully read by scientists who are Christians and who are seeking to formulate a Christian philosophy of science . . . This book, while quite controversial, does present a strong case. It will be welcomed by all those who seek to interpret the Bible in a literal sense. The authors are to be congratulated on a job well done.